

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. A system for porting user data from one computer to another,
3 comprising:

4 a memory device to store the user data; and
5 a smart card associated with a user that alternately enables access to the
6 user data on the memory device when both the memory device and smart card are
7 interfaced with a common computer and disables access to the user data when one
8 of the memory device or smart card is absent.

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10 2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory device stores a
11 user's profile that can be used to configure a computer.

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13 3. An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card stores a
14 passcode and access to the user data in the memory device is enabled upon
15 authentication of a user-supplied passcode to the passcode stored on the smart
16 card.

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18 4. An assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory device stores
19 a public key and the smart card stores a corresponding private key and access to
20 the user data in the memory device is enabled upon verification that the public key
21 and the private key are associated.

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23 5. A profile carrier comprising:
24 a smart card to store a passcode and a private key from a private/public key
25 pair;

1 a memory device to store a user profile and a public key from the
2 private/public key pair;

3 wherein when the smart card and the memory device are interfaced with a
4 common computing unit, the smart card is configured to permit use of the private
5 key following validation of a user-entered passcode with the stored passcode and
6 to authenticate the public key stored on the memory device using the private key;
7 the profile carrier being configured to permit access to the user profile stored on
8 the memory device upon successful authentication of the public key at the smart
9 card.

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11 **6. A computer system, comprising:**

12 a computing unit having a memory drive and a smart card reader; and
13 the profile carrier as recited in claim 5, wherein the memory device is
14 interfaced with the computing unit via the memory drive and the smart card is
15 interfaced with the computing unit via the smart card reader.

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17 **7. A computer system, comprising:**

18 a computer having an interface; and
19 a smart card secured memory system having data memory to store user data
20 and a smart card that alternately enables access to the user data when present and
21 disables access to the user data when absent.

1 8. A computer system as recited in claim 7, wherein the smart card
2 stores a passcode and is configured to authenticate a user-supplied passcode
3 entered into the computer as a condition for enabling access to the user data.

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5 9. A computer system as recited in claim 7, wherein:
6 the smart card stores a first key;
7 the data memory stores a second key that is associated with the first key;
8 and
9 the smart card is configured to authenticate the second key from the data
10 memory using the first key as a condition for enabling access to the user data.

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12 10. A computer system as recited in claim 7, wherein:
13 the smart card stores a passcode and a private key of a public/private key
14 pair;
15 the data memory stores a public key of the public/private key pair; and
16 the smart card is configured to authenticate a user-supplied passcode
17 entered into the computer as a condition for enabling access to the private key and
18 to authenticate the public key from the data memory using the private key as a
19 condition for enabling access to the user data.

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21 11. A computer system, comprising:
22 a computer having a memory drive and a card reader;
23 a portable profile carrier to port a user's profile for configuration of the
24 computer, the profile carrier comprising:

(a) an integrated circuit (IC) card associated with the user that can be interfaced with the computer via the card reader; and

(b) a memory device to store the user's profile, the memory device being interfaced with the computer via the memory drive, the IC card enabling access to the user data on the memory device; and

wherein when the profile carrier is interfaced with the computer, the user's profile is accessible to configure the computer.

12. A computer system as recited in claim 11, wherein the IC card stores a passcode and is configured to authenticate a user-supplied passcode entered into the computer as a condition for enabling access to the user's profile.

13. A computer system as recited in claim 11, wherein:

the IC card stores a first key;

the memory device stores a second key that is associated with the first key;

and

the IC card is configured to authenticate the second key passed in from the memory device using the first key as a condition for enabling access to the user's profile.

14. A computer system as recited in claim 11, wherein:

the IC card stores a passcode and a private key of a public/private key pair;

the memory device stores a public key of the public/private key pair; and

the IC card is configured to authenticate a user-supplied passcode entered into the computer as a condition for enabling access to the private key and to

1 authenticate the public key passed in from the memory device using the private
2 key as a condition for enabling access to the user's profile.

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4 **15.** A method for porting a user profile for a computer, comprising:
5 storing a user profile in memory of a smart card secured profile carrier, the
6 smart card secured profile carrier having a smart card that selectively enables
7 access to the user profile in the memory;
8 interfacing the smart card secured profile carrier with the computer; and
9 reading the user profile from the memory for use in configuring the
10 computer.

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12 **16.** A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising interfacing the
13 smart card secured profile carrier with a different second computer and reading the
14 user profile from the memory for use in configuring the second computer.

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16 **17.** A method comprising:
17 storing user data on a portable memory device;
18 storing access credentials on a smart card, the access credentials enabling
19 access to the user data stored on the portable memory device; and
20 interfacing the smart card and the portable memory device with a computer;
21 reading the access credentials from the smart card to enable access to the
22 user data on the portable memory device.

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24 **18.** A method comprising:
25 storing user data in a portable memory device;

storing a device-resident key in the memory device;

storing a card-resident key on the smart card, the card-resident key corresponding to the device-resident key;

storing a passcode on the smart card;

interfacing the smart card with a computer;

interfacing the portable memory device with the computer;

receiving a user-entered passcode;

permitting use of the card-resident key following validation of the user-entered passcode with the passcode stored on the smart card;

passing the device-resident key from the memory device to the smart card;

authenticating, at the smart card, the device-resident key using the card-resident key; and

permitting access to the user data stored in the memory device upon successful authentication of the device-resident key.

19. In a system having a computer and a smart card secured profile carrier, the smart card secured profile carrier having memory to store a user profile and a smart card separate from the memory, computer-readable media resident on the profile carrier having executable instructions comprising:

- receiving a user-supplied passcode from the computer;
- authenticating the user-supplied passcode with a passcode stored on the smart card;
- enabling access to a private key on the smart card upon successful authentication of the user-supplied passcode;
- receiving a public key from the memory;

1 authenticating the public key using the private key; and
2 enabling access to the user profile in the memory upon successful
3 authentication of the public key.
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